

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application, claims 14-17 having been canceled. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 3, 4, 6, 13 and 17 and indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9 and 10. Claim 9 has been amended to independent form and all of claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Nonetheless, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected for anticipation by Onaka. Claims 11, 12, 14 and 16 are rejected for obviousness over Kim in view of Onaka. Both rejections are respectfully traversed.

As to Onaka, it teaches the use of a separate excitation source 81, 82, 85 or 86 for each respective wavelength. This is similar to the prior art discussed at pages 2-3 of the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the plurality of different pump wavelengths are produced from a single excitation source.

As to Kim, claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended to recite in means plus function form the single excitation source as well as the means for producing the plurality of pump wavelengths from the single source. Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the examiner in the Examiner Interview Summary mailed July 21, 2006 that construing the means plus function language of the rejected claims in accordance with the sixth paragraph of 35 USC 112 would distinguish over the prior art. Applicants confirm that the means for producing and means for independent power control recited in claim 1, and the means for independently

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/022,896

adjusting of claims 11 and 12 are recited in means plus function form and are to be construed in accordance with the sixth paragraph of 35 USC 112.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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